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The Cloning Conundrum

Jennifer is a fairly wealthy woman alone in the world. While not in a relationship currently she has dabbled in romance on various occasions over the years and she is content with the way things are. One day in mid-April which happened to be her birthday Jennifer woke up with feeling like she was missing something in her life. The thought of a child is heavily on her mind. Later that day Jennifer decides she will clone herself and avoid the uncertainty that an unknown father figure’s genes may bring. In the United States cloning is illegal, so to circumvent the law she takes a leave of absence from work to the Cayman Islands. The cloning process costs $80,000 for the first part of the operation. If the pregnancy doesn’t take it costs an additional $20,000 for each additional pregnancy attempt. Soon after returning home and discovering she is pregnant she goes through the same routine any other woman would have when expecting a child. Nobody suspects when Rachel is born that she is a clone Jennifer. Rachel while Identical to Rachel in every way will grow up as all other children in her age group.

Jennifer and Rachel are the same person. Does this mean that Jennifer’s mother is actually Rachel’s mother also? Perhaps one would think they are technically twins? Will Rachel have negative psychological effects from seeing her older self and all the potential issues that will arise?

Has Jennifer done anything wrong? Nobody has been affected in any negative way. Has Rachel been negatively affected? Dr. Callahan would argue that laboratory creation of a being with a completely identical genetic makeup to a host would hinder the cloned individual’s permissibly exclusive self. He may also bring up that such exposure to her future self’s flaws and potential ailments would be devastating to her mental wellbeing as she grows up. However lots of kids see a glimpse of their potential genetic short comings. This could also be a benefit since these potential issues can be fixed or treated early on. Rachel will become her own person. Jennifer will likely raise Rachel differently in a completely different environment and upbringing. Rachel will likely follow a much different path of life than her mother. Another issue opponents to cloning bring up is Jennifer expecting the same achievements to be met while Rachel grows up. Jennifer like any other mother will expect things of her child and in the end still love her the same way.

Perhaps Rachel soon starts feeling as though she is not an exclusive being. Is it possible this will harm Rachel? Maybe, cloning shouldn’t be allowed due to the process it involves? The Catholic hierarchy seems to think embryos are human and shouldn’t be altered. Perhaps human creation should be left in God’s hands? It is impossible against these beliefs.

Many of the opponents such as William Safire think that on the whole cloning could mess with the process of evolution. The fact that Cloning would be an extremely expensive service the amount of clones would be a small fraction of the world.

In the politics many began worrying about human cloning soon after Dolly was cloned. Tom Harkin was the only Senator to embrace human cloning. No matter what human cloning will happen. If an individual wants to clone him or herself she will find some place that it is legal to do so. The private sector will control cloning. Where ever cloning is made illegal other places will allow it to profit off the taxes that such clinics would pay.

People have the right to reproduce or not to reproduce in democratic societies. Human cloning changes the way this particular right. Today if one does not have to have sex or give sperm and eggs for IVF. However, tomorrow could be different as cloning requires nothing more than one’s genetic code that could easily be taken without consent. In Jennifer and Rachel’s situation there was consent. What if a sample of Michael Jordans blood was taken at the doctors and later sold by a tech to the highest bidder? The major problem with this scenario is the clone will likely view the world differently and have goals and aspirations that Jordan never had. The use of cloning would help infertile couples have a child of their own to raise. Cloning without consent would bring up tons of litigation. There will still likely be surreptitious cloning somewhere in the world regardless of laws.